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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

May 01/ 2011

WE HONOUR AND CELEBRATE MAY DAY 2011

May Day is observed by all peace loving people as a day of solidarity to workers' struggle for economic and political rights, for peace, for democracy and social justice and for a better world free from exploitation, repression, discrimination and persecution.

We celebrate May Day at a time when the global economy is in deep crisis, a crisis that has negatively affected the quality of life and economic well being of the working people of both developed and developing nations. Rising prices, unemployment, reductions in wages, pensions and other social benefits are wide spread. This appalling and grave global situation calls for persistent and united struggles of all working people of the world for better life, freedom and economic well being.

The May Day celebration of 2011 marks also the historic event of general uprisings of the working people, particularly of those in the Middle East and North Africa against long standing dictatorship, tyranny, repression and discrimination. While we congratulate our brothers in Tunisia and Egypt for their success in dethroning their respective dictators we extend our solidarity to the people of other countries in the region and declare that we stand by them in their relentless struggle to do away with the dictatorships once and for all.

The working people of Ethiopia have been under the yoke of dictatorship for the last twenty years. There is no freedom and democracy and the rights of the people have been severely curtailed. Thousands have been killed, imprisoned and put incommunicado during the last twenty years simply because they opposed the destructive polices of the regime. In addition to going through this physical repression and tyranny the working people of Ethiopia have been victims of the regime's exploitation and the global economic crisis. Inflation, unemployment, reduction of wages, absence of essential products, famine, poverty etc. have made them destitute and indigent. In order to reclaim their dignity and protect their political and economic freedoms the Ethiopian people have no option other than to dismantle the dictatorship through their arduous and relentless struggle. Being one arm of the people, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) has waged relentless struggle against successive dictators and has recently intensified its struggle against the regime in power.

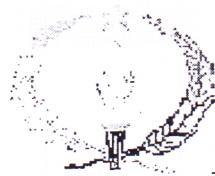
In honoring and celebrating the May Day of 2011, the EPRP extends its solidarity to the working and peace- loving people of the world in support of their struggle for economic, political rights and freedom and calls upon them to wage a united struggle against dictatorship, exploitation and tyranny.

Long live May Day!

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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

June 02/2011

PRESS RELEASE

SUDANESE SOLDIERS KILL FIVE ETHIOPIANS

The EPRP vigorously condemns the murder of five Ethiopian villagers at Korgena (situated between the border garrison town of Metema and Mendoka) by Sudanese soldiers who had crossed into Ethiopia.

On May 22, armed Sudanese soldiers crossed into Korgena and told the villagers to evacuate as Korgena has been given to the Sudan by the EPRDF of Meles Zenawi. The Ethiopian villagers resisted and the Sudanese soldiers opened fire and killed five before they were able to overcome the villagers and take control of Korgena. The soldiers of the EPRDF did not come to help the Ethiopian villagers. After the takeover, the Sudanese soldiers have proceeded to put up border posts and markings. This delineation of the border is proceeding up to Gelegu in Quara with the Sudanese forcefully chasing villagers out of their land and taking Ethiopian territory as their own with full backing of the traitorous regime of Meles Zenawi. It is to be noted that Sudanese soldiers are still on Ethiopian soil at Quara (especially around Nefso Gebeya hill)

The EPRP condemns the sold out regime in Addis Abeba and the invading Sudanese government. The violation of Ethiopian territorial integrity cannot be tolerated and the EPRP has called on the people to protect Ethiopia's sovereignty by all means necessary.

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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

June 4/2011

PRESS RELEASE

THE FARCE OF A CRIMINAL REGIME
PARDONING MASS MURDERERS

The regime of Meles Zenawi has announced a few days ago that it has cancelled the death sentence imposed by its own courts on 23 top officials of the former regime accused of mass murder during the notorious Red Terror campaign (late seventies). The commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment is expected to be followed by the release of the accused as they have been in prison for the last 20 years.

The EPRP condemns the decision of the repressive regime on the grounds that the TPLF organization of Meles Zenawi has no moral or legal power and legitimacy to accuse, sentence and pardon Red Terror criminals as it was part of the terror campaign itself using its cadres who had infiltrated the Mengistu regime to denounce EPRP supporters and members in Tigrai and to have them arrested and liquidated. The lip service given by the regime to honor the martyrs of the EPRP contradicts the brutal repression that the same regime has unleashed against the EPRP. Many EPRP leaders and members have been disappeared by the Meles regime (Tsegaye Debteraw, Hagos Bezabih, Sitotaw Hussein, Aberash Berta, journalist Berhanu Ijigu, Wondusirak Desta, Abebe Aynekulu, etc...) and others have been martyred (Gaim in Addis Abeba). The EPRP is still illegal and hunted in Ethiopia.

The Red Terror by the totalitarian regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam killed at least 250,000 Ethiopians in a brutal manner. Many were tortured and mutilated and still bear the physical and psychological scars. Millions have been traumatized by the savage measure that visited so many homes. Hence, the ones to pardon the criminals, if this be the people's choice, are not the officials of the criminal regime but the Ethiopian people. The charade orchestrated to cover the whole process behind the so called intervention of

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very dubious and pro-regime religious leaders has not duped Ethiopians. For the last 20 years, the Ethiopian people have never heard a word of protest from the concerned religious leaders protesting against the gross violation of rights by the Meles regime. The whole thing is a political maneuver especially as many of the accused criminals have not recanted or expressed any public regret. In other words, the arbitrary measure by the Meles regime has angered the people and families of the victims and EPRP joins the people in expressing its condemnation of the illegal and arbitrary measure of the Meles regime.

2

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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

June 10/2011

GALLOPING INFLATION, INCREASED POVERTY,
COOKED UP STATISTICS= EPRDF RULE

For the last 20 years, the regime of Meles Zenawi has been boasting of double digit economic growth and proclaiming to all who would listen that Ethiopia under its rule has defeated poverty. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The economic policy of the ruling regime has been and is bankrupt.

IMF and the World Bank were usually the very ones applauding and lauding the repressive and bankrupt regime. Though they may still continue, for political reasons, to give substantial financial aid to the tyrannical regime both institutions have been forced to admit that not all is well at all in the foul reign of Meles Zenawi. The World Bank's country director for the Horn of Africa, Ken Ohashi, has openly declared that the EPRDF's "dependence on foreign capital to finance budget deficits and a five year investment plan is unsustainable". This was what we had been saying all along. Mr. Ohashi went on to explain that "the government plans to borrow at least 398.4 billion Ethiopian birr (\$23.6 billion) from home and abroad to fund the five-year growth plan, with an additional 75.4 billion birr to finance fiscal deficits over the same period." A joint International Monetary Fund and World Bank study in May 2010 found that Ethiopia's debt rose to 14 percent of gross domestic product in 2009, according to the Finance Ministry website. The ratio of debt to exports will reach about 133 percent this year, it said. The regime's triumphant (and false) claim of an 11% annual economic growth has been refuted by the IMF itself.

The concept of economic growth limited to official statistics has often been used to cover up the poor status of many countries and the failure of the economic policies of the command economies. The Ethiopian economy is dominated by the

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firms of the ruling party grouped in the EFFORT conglomeration owned by the Tgirean front of Meles Zenawi. The boasting of the regime aside, 70% of Ethiopians are still surviving on less than \$2 daily income burdened with 29% inflation on basic necessities that the regime's price cap has not been able to decrease. The regime has now, as expected, removed the price cap and prices of goods have soared up as the price of petrol has been increased. The fiction of economic growth has been burst by the dire and glaring reality of an impoverished populace, by 12 million plus people made dependent on food aid, nation wide misery, inflation and unemployment and the conviction by the majority of Ethiopians that they are not part of the so called economic growth. That the IMF and the World Bank have finally tried to speak the truth confirms what the Ethiopian people have been living for the last 20 years—a political and economic disaster under a brutal, corrupt and greedy regime.



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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

June 20/2011

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**EPRP DENOUNCES THE
EVICTION OF PEOPLE FROM METEMA**

The regime of Meles Zenawi, that is busy selling Ethiopian land cheaply to foreign firms, is trying to uproot by force thousands of people who have lived in Metema (Ethio-Sudanese border) for years and years. The official reason given by the regime is that Metema is a garrison town and the civilian population must move away to nearby Shehdi and other places while the people concerned know that the real reason is that part of the land around Metema has been ceded to the Sudan and other parts leased out.

Last week the regime again tried to oust the people by force but once again they came out en masse to resist and its plan was foiled for now. The regime has also forbidden any Ethiopian peasants from the highlands to farm in lowland areas extending from Quara to Metema. The whole area is known for its fertile land. It is to be recalled that the Meles regime has declared all Ethiopian land (except in its home region of Tigrai) for sale and has evicted thousands of Ethiopians to hand over huge tracts of fertile land (the size of Israel/Belgium) to foreign companies (Indian, Chinese, Arab, etc). These huge agro industry firms are felling trees, and exclusively farming for export. The whole operation is cruel and modern plunder with little or no benefit to Ethiopia, notwithstanding the lying regime's claim to the contrary. To note also that the Meles regime has undertaken forced resettlement without even a pip of protest from foreign quarters who had cried to the skies when the former pro Soviet regime tried the same thing.

The EPRP has time and again condemned the repressive activities of the Meles regime and cautioned the foreign companies to desist from aiding and abetting in his criminal and anti Ethiopia act. China especially not only grabs Ethiopian land and has imposed a neo-colonial stranglehold on the economy but is helping the regime to control the internet and jam radios and TV broadcasts to Ethiopia. When the bubble bursts, as it would sooner or later, the wrath of the people may very well target these allies of the regime and the consequences could be very damaging.

The EPRP expresses its solidarity with the people of Metema who are resisting eviction from their ancestral land.

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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

August 9, 2011

EPRDF AND THE ALMOST HIDDEN FAMINE

As a concerned world rushes to bring help to millions of famine victims in the Horn of Africa, the brutal regime of Meles Zenawi, which is more to blame than the drought for the dire situation, has opted to keep silent or to minimize the impact of the tragedy in Ethiopia. Previous regimes in Ethiopia had also opted for hiding devastating famines (1973, 1984) and caused hundreds of thousands of unwarranted deaths.

Despite the attempt by the Meles regime and its acolytes to minimize the famine and claim it is present only in “remote border areas and refugee camps”, the famine spreading like an epidemic and is presently seriously affecting the regions of Tigray, the Afar, and Amhara. Somali, Borena, Guji, Burji and Geleb peoples and region. Many millions (at least five million) are in need of urgent help and are being endangered by the cruel regime’s attempt to cling to its fiction of economic development and surplus grain production. Actually, the prevailing famine testifies to the bankrupt agricultural policies of the regime, its corruption (the sale of stored grain to a foreign country), the marginalization and impoverishment of the peasantry, the sale of land the size of Belgium to foreign firms and the chasing off farmers from their lands, etc...are more responsible for the famine than the almost proverbial drought. Add to this the regime’s bloody anti insurgency campaign in the Ogaden where the famine has been sued for political and military ends. Experience (1984) has also proved that the ruling front is known for massively swindling food aid (and also using it for political purposes) and it should not be trusted this time around with money and food aid. It should be noted that the Meles regime has been aided and supported by the USA and the European Union despite its totalitarian policies, massive repression and gross violations of human rights.

The EPRP condemns the Meles regime for exposing our people to this catastrophe once again and for trying to cover it up in various ways. It calls on the international bodies to help the famine victims in the Horn of Africa but to make sure the vultures in power do not lay their hands on the food aid. The grain stored for emergency situation like the

present famine has been depleted, sold, used up by the regime. In Ethiopia, many more people than in Kenya and Somalia are starving (consider also that inflation in July shot up to 39% and food prices increased by more than 41%) but the silence is deafening. Let us break the silence, condemn the cruel regime and effectively and directly help the famine victims.

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